No coagulation was produced in milk. Glucose was fermented. Gram's stain was not retained. The organism was pathogenic for mice in twenty-four hours by introperitoneal inoculation, capsule bacilli being obtained from their heart's blood. He therefore regards the organism found as identical with Friedländer's pneumobacillus.

HIGLEY.

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS. E. Bramwell (Scottish Medical and Surgical Journal, 1901, May).

Bramwell gives the history of the first case of myasthenia gravis reported in Scotland, and 9 such cases have come under his notice; elsewhere 80 or 90 cases have been reported. It is often mistaken for hysteria. Rapid fatigue of the muscles is the prominent symptom. Rapid exhaustion by the faradic current constitutes the myasthenic reaction. The disease may be due to a toxin of endogenous origin, or some congenital defect in construction or mode of functionating of the neuromotor apparatus. In one-quarter of the recorded cases there has been a neuropathic tendency; some have followed acute infective diseases, which probably acted simply as predisposing agents. Prognosis is uncertain; the disease is often fatal, generally from dyspnea. A favorable prognosis should be given the patient, as psychic impressions exert considerable influence, while friends should be warned of the gravity of the case. The affected muscles should be spared and if symptoms are severe, the patient should be kept in bed. The larger portion of the food should be taken early in the day before fatigue occurs, solid food should be minced, faradism avoided though galvanism may be tried, and when dyspnea occurs the tongue should be drawn forward, oxygen saline transfusion and artificial respiration tried. JELLIFFE.

THE ACTION OF ALCOHOL ON THE NEURONES. J. Arm and Kleefeld (Journ. de physiol. et path. gen., July, 1901.)

Observations along this line are important in that modifications of the central nervous system occasion alterations in respiration, circulation and temperature range. These experimenters trephined the parietal region of a rabbit's skull under antiseptic precautions and without the use of morphine, ether or chloroform. They then closed the wound superficially and after leaving the animal at rest for two or three days injected into the jugular vein 100 c.c. of a seven per cent. aqueous alcoholic solution. After two or three minutes they raised a portion of the cerebral cortex. This was fixed in a mixture of potassium bichromate and osmic acid and submitted to the rapid manipulation of Golgi. In the second series they introduced 100 c.c. of a 15 per cent. alcoholic solution into the stomach of rabbits and made similar examination of the cerebral tissue. Here the pathological changes were increased in amount over those found in the first series. As the result of this work, they conclude that the modifications produced by alcohol are not to be considered as a form of degeneration of nerve-cells, since the alterations appear in a very few minutes after the injection of the alcohol. The moniliform (beaded) state and disappearance of the piriform appendages are seen only in the finest protoplasmic prolongations and far removed from the cell-body. As the dose of alcohol is increased this condition augments and approaches the body of the cell. This appearance is characteristic and not like that produced by chloroform, morphine or chloral hydrate.

Certain prolongations remain absolutely normal even after large alcoholic dosage. The axis-cylinder submits to alterations only after very large dosage (100 c.c. of a 25 per cent. solution). The cell-body does not seem to be in any way changed. This is at variance with the views of Demoor and Stefanowska. These alterations are able to explain all the phenomena of inebriety. JELLIFFE.

ESSENTIAL MYOTONIA. A. Duse and Astolfoni (Rivista sperimentali di Frematria, Vol. 26, fasc. 2, 3).

The history is given of a patient seventeen years of age, of marked neurotic heredity, who at first developed epileptiform convulsions, following head trauma. Eight days later these disappeared, but for three months the patient suffered from continuous migraine; following this myotonia appeared. This myotonia was of a wandering type. At first it involved the upper limbs, then the cervical muscles were affected and it finally became more or less permanent in those muscles of the right side of the neck innervated by the recurrens, the facialis, the superior cervical plexus, the pharyngeal and superior and laryngeal nerves. There was reaction to mechanical excitation and also the lacunar reaction of Benedict. The authors hold that the origin of the affection is cerebral and exclude an organic traumatic causation. COLLINA (Bologna).

CONTRIBUTION TO THE PHYSIOPATHOLOGY OF LANGUAGE. G. Mingazzini (Rev. sperimentali di Freniatria, 1901, Vol. 26).

The clinical history is given of a woman who during life showed symptoms of a cerebral tumor, but had never had any aphasia. On autopsy a sarcoma was found between the inferior and middle frontal convolutions on the left side. Much crushing and distortion of the convolutions was produced. From his study of the case, the author reasons that in the early stages of life the functions of language are common to both Broca's convolutions, but as age advances the functions of the right convolution become reduced and a concentration becomes marked in the left; so much so that the right convolution subsequently loses its functional (not its anatomical) relations with the verbo-acoustic centers of the left side. It maintains a quasi automatic center of language.

In the case under discussion the tumor was of slow growth and it was probable that during the long time of development of the tumor substitution of language function had taken place.

COLLINA (Bologna).